

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 5, 2015
TOWN HALL
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Nadine A. Hawver, Chairman
David A. Smith, Jr., Clerk
Andrew G. Petersen

Others Present: Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator
Alicia Dulin, Assistant to Town Administrator
Claudia Martin, Housing Commission
Kathy Orlando, Housing Commission
Marilyn Wightman, Housing Commission

Members of the public

Chairman Hawver opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Selectman Smith moved to approve the meeting minutes from September 8, 2015 and September 21, 2015 as presented, seconded by Selectman Petersen. The motion carried unanimously.

HOUSING COMMISSION – UPDATE:

Housing Commission member Kathy Orlando was present to update the Board on the possibility of using Town land for housing. Ms. Orlando stated that the Housing Commission looked at Town owned parcels of land and concluded that the smaller parcel on Bears Den Road would be too small for housing, the property located on Berkshire School Road would be feasible for some houses or duplexes and the 34 acres that is located off of Bears Den Road was land locked. She stated that there were some cabins on this property and would need some clarification on the boundaries of that property. Chairman Hawver thanked the Housing Commission for their work and stated that the Board would discuss at a future meeting. Ms. Orlando gave the Board a handout with the results of the housing survey and encourage more people to take the survey.

Housing Commission member Claudia Martin gave an update on a rental property that the owners would like to sell. She stated that Construct may be willing to take on this property so the renters would not lose housing. Board of Health member Priscilla Cote asked if Construct has policies in place for maintain these types of properties. Housing Commission member Marilyn Wightman stated that Construct does have policies for maintenance of rental properties. She also stated that if Construct were to buy this rental property then it would be added to the affordable housing list in Boston.

The Board thanked the Housing Commission for their work.

CDBG PROJECTS:

Administrator LaBombard explained that Sheffield will be applying for the 2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and stated that the Board is looking for input from residents on projects in Town that could be completed using the grant.

BOARD OF HEALTH – ATTORNEY GENERAL’S ABANDONED HOUSING INITIATIVE:

Board of Health Chairman Priscilla Cote was present to update the Board on the Abandoned Housing Initiative. She stated that this program now gives the Town the opportunity to restore abandoned properties. Ms. Cote also updated the Board on the current home that has been awarded to a receiver and will be renovated and auctioned through the Abandoned Housing Initiatives Program. She stated that the Board of Health hopes to recommend other properties for this program. Discussion ensued regarding the Abandoned Housing Initiatives Program. Selectman Smith asked Ms. Cote where the profit would go if the house is auctioned for more than the cost to rehabilitate the house. Ms. Cote stated that she didn’t know but she would find out.

TRICK OR TREAT HOURS:

Administrator LaBombard recommended that the trick or treat hours be set for October 31, 2015 from 5-7 pm. Selectman Smith moved to set trick or treat hours on October 31, 2015 from 5-7 pm, seconded by Selectman Petersen. The motion carried unanimously.

ONE DAY ALCOHOL LICENSES:

Administrator LaBombard stated that Our Lady of the Valley Parish has submitted an application for a one day wine and malt beverage license for a beer and wine tasting to be held at Our Lady of the Valley Parish Hall on October 25, 2015. Selectman Smith moved to approve the one day wine and malt beverage license for Our Lady of the Valley Parish for their beer and wine tasting to be held on October 25, 2015, seconded by Selectman Petersen. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT – CULTURAL COUNCIL:

Chairman Hawver stated that Robert Law and Wendy Casey have submitted letters requesting appointment to the Cultural Council. She stated the appointments would be made at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

REQUEST TO HUNT ON TOWN PROPERTY:

Administrator LaBombard stated that Thomas Ackerman has submitted a request to hunt at the Town Park from October 19, 2015 through December 31, 2015 using a bow and black powder. She stated that in the past the Board has allowed only bow hunting at the Town Park. Discussion ensued. Selectman Smith moved to not grant permission to Thomas Ackerman to hunt at the Town Park because the Eagle Scouts will be starting a project to develop trails at the Town Park in October, seconded by Selectman Petersen. The motion carried unanimously.

RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

Administrator LaBombard recommended that the Board release any Executive Session minutes pertaining to the Harvey matter since this matter is closed. Selectman Smith moved to release all Executive Session minutes pertaining to the Harvey matter, seconded by Selectman Petersen. The motion carried unanimously.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

Selectman Petersen stated that he and Chairman Hawver had an enjoyable day attending the new Selectmen training last week.

Chairman Hawver read the following statement:

Last week we were notified of an assessment calculation error made by the SBRSD. This error resulted in three towns being under assessed and two towns being over assessed. Sheffield is one of the towns that was under assessed by approximately \$240,000. The School Committee invited all five towns in the District to a meeting last week to discuss a possible solution.

The School Committee has voted to reduce their budget by \$216,000. This reduction was possible due to retirements and staff changes as well as additional Chapter 70 funds. The budget reduction has lowered Sheffield's under assessment to \$126,000.

We have sent letters to the Board of Selectmen in the other four towns in the District inviting them to a meeting to discuss the School Committee's proposal or come up with other ways of managing the situation. A date will be set as soon as we receive their responses. We will continue to keep you updated.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS:

Administrator LaBombard stated that the Selectmen's Association and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will be holding a dinner in Pittsfield on October 15, 2015. She stated that if any Board members are interested in attending they can let her know so she can sign them up.

Selectman Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Petersen. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hawver adjourned the meeting at 7:41 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Alicia Dulin
Assistant to the Town Administrator

Documents reviewed at this meeting:
Housing Commission Survey Results
Abandoned Housing Initiative Handout
One Day Alcohol License Applications of Our Lady of the Valley Parish
Letters of Interest of Cultural Council
Request to Hunt on Town Property